Amendments to the Claims

1. *(Original)* A use-authorization device for security-related applications, in particular access control to secure areas or for securing vehicles, with

- a user-end key unit for generating consecutive, alternating user code information which has a sequence of consecutive function values $v_{i+1} = F(v_i, const)$ for $i = 0,...,N$ through the repeated use of a one-way function $F(v_i, const)$, which function values are used in inverse order to the sequence formation to create the consecutive user code information; and
- an application-end processing unit for determining actual authorization information which is dependent upon the user code information received from the key unit and for performing a use-authorization checking process by comparing this actual authorization information with the application-end desired authorization information, as well as for generating use-release information depending on the result of the comparison, wherein the desired authorization information has a function value v_i which has been transferred from the user code information which had been processed during the previous positive use-authorization operation;

characterized in that

- there is a certain number of levels G provided from which a certain number of iterative function value calculations can be performed in each level by means of the one-way function $F(v_i, const)$, and
- there are $G = \lceil L(N)/b \rceil$ levels, wherein N is the starting value, $L(N)$ is the number of bits required for representing N in the dual system and b is the basis.

2. *(Original)* A device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that there is a support point $s(i)$ where $i = (1,...,G)$ provided for each level.

3. *(Original)* A device as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the values for the support points $s(i)$ are determined from the equation

$$s(i) = N - \sum_{j=1}^{i} \left(2^b\right)^j$$

4. *(Currently Amended)* A device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 2 or 3~~claim 2, characterized in that no function values can be calculated for support points with a negative index.

5. *(Currently Amended)* A device as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 2 to 4~~claim 2, characterized in that the parameter b is adapted for a specified number of support points in such a way that the function value calculations per use authorization are minimized.

6. *(Currently Amended)* A device as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 2 to 5~~claim 2, characterized in that, starting from the current support point $s(i)$, there should be a certain number of function values calculated in each level in descending order and saved as intermediate values.

7. *(Original)* A device as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that an intermediate value for the support point in a level should be reset successively in this level once this intermediate value, as a new support point, has been transferred to the next level down.

8. *(Currently Amended)* A device as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterized in that the starting value is $N = \left(2^b\right)^G$.

9. *(Currently Amended)* A device as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, characterized in that the starting value is $N \in \left\{\left(2^b\right)^{G-1}, \ldots, \left(2^b\right)^G - 1\right\}$.

10. *(Currently Amended)* A device as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterized in that there were several buffers provided for saving intermediate values which are calculated from the function values.

11. *(Original)* A device as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the buffers are FIFO memories.